

Stefanie Moore, R.N.  
372 Ridgemont  
Grosse Pointe Farms, MI 48236

To: Senate Insurance Committee

Re: Opposition to Senate Bills 1115,1116,1117, 1118

Although I am a member of the medical profession, I urge you to reject this package of proposed legislation.

I have practiced as a registered nurse in a hospital setting for more than 17 years. I have witnessed firsthand physicians make errors which had fatal or long lasting consequences for the patient. As a simple example, a surgeon went golfing and left the surgery for a resident to handle. That resident was over his head and lacked the experience to handle the emergency which arose. The patient paid the ultimate price for that mistake in judgment by the physician.

It seems to me that the insurance industry and the physicians groups have bought a wish list of requests to you which would further limit patient's rights to compensation and practically immunize them from lawsuits. Some of the changes to the law which have been requested are contrary to the rulings of the courts.

Please consider that further limiting the rights of medical malpractice victims' to compensation shift the burden for paying for the doctors' mistakes on the taxpayers of this state. Doesn't personal accountability dictate that physicians should carry adequate insurance and be liable for their errors? If anyone is driving their car and run a stop sign because they are texting or otherwise not paying attention and someone is seriously hurt or killed, the victims are entitled to full compensation. Michigan drivers are required to carry insurance. Why aren't doctors?

It seems to me that if you provide virtual immunity to doctors in Michigan that you will not attract the brightest and best. Rather you will be inviting the worst doctors from throughout the country who have been forced out of their local communities to come to Michigan and hurt patients here.

There needs to be balance between the rights of the parties involved here. The proposed package of legislation is wrong for Michigan, wrong for victims and wrong for the medical profession. I urge you to not submit this legislation to the floor for a vote.

cc: Senator Bert Johnson